

Message Text

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60

ORIGIN EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ADP-00 L-03 PM-07 CG-00 COA-02 SCS-03

SCA-01 SSO-00 NSC-10 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

RSC-01 DODE-00 INRE-00 PA-03 PRS-01 USIE-00 SY-10

/088 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/WE - CTMAGEE:PAM

7/25/73:X22453

APPROVED BY EUR - WSTABLER

L/OA - MBWEST

PM/AE - HGHANDYSIDE (INFO)

----- 055373

O P 252323Z JUL 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

INFO AMCONSUL AUCKLAND PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY SUVA

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

COMDT COAST GUARD

CINCPAC

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PARM, PFOR, NZ, FR

SUBJECT: FRI

REF: PARIS 20162

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

1. SUMMARY. FATHER OF FRI OWNER MET IN DEPARTMENT
JULY 25 WITH OFFICERS FROM EUR/WE AND L/OA. HE WAS TOLD
THAT DEPARTMENT IS ACTIVELY CONSIDERING QUESTION OF
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WHETHER FRENCH HAD LEGAL RIGHT TO BOARD AND SEIZE FRI,

AND WHETHER LEGAL GROUNDS EXIST FOR USG PROTEST. SUBSEQUENTLY EUR/WE CALLED IN FRENCH EMBASSY COUNSELOR TO INDICATE DISSATISFACTION WITH INCOMPLETE REPORTS FROM GOF; AND TO INSIST ON FULL ACCOUNT OF FACTS, PARTICULARLY PRECISE CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING ACTUAL SEIZURE; AND TO POINT OUT THAT USG DOES NOT DISMISS POSSIBILITY OF PURSUING MATTER AT HIGHER LEVEL. END SUMMARY.

2. GORDON MOODIE, FATHER OF FRI OWNER DAVID MOODIE, MET WITH OFFICERS FROM EUR/WE AND L/OA IN DEPARTMENT JULY 25 TO DISCUSS FRI. DEPTOFFS STRESSED THAT USG ACCEPTS FRENCH ASSURANCES THAT BOTH YACHT AND CREW ARE SAFE, SOUND AND WELL CARED FOR, AND THAT FRI WILL BE RETURNED TO ITS CREW. MOODIE WAS TOLD THAT PRIME LEGAL ISSUE OF WHETHER FRENCH HAD LEGAL RIGHT TO BOARD AND SEIZE VESSEL,

AND WHETHER LEGAL GROUNDS EXIST FOR A USG PROTEST, IS UNDER ACTIVE CONSIDERATION AND WILL INVOLVE OTHER USG AGENCIES BESIDES STATE DEPT.

3. MOODIE SAID HE WAS CONFIDENT THAT FRENCH WOULD NOT ALLOW EITHER CREW OR SHIP TO BE HARMED. HE EXPRESSED OPINION THAT USG WILL WANT TO KEEP MAXIMUM LATITUDE IN ITS NATIONAL SECURITY POLICY AND THUS WOULD NOT SUPPORT FRI CASE. IN THAT EVENT HE AS PRIVATE CITIZEN WOULD SERIOUSLY CONSIDER ATTEMPTING TO SEEK DAMAGES FROM GOF. IN ANSWER TO HIS QUESTION WHETHER DEPT CONSIDERED CREW UNDER DETENTION, DEPTOFFS SAID WE ACCEPT FRENCH REPORT THAT THEY ARE FREE TO LEAVE HAO BUT HAVE CHOSEN TO REMAIN THERE FOR PRESENT. DEPT WILL ATTEMPT CONTACT SON DIRECTLY BY TELEPHONE AT HAO.

4. EUR/WE SUBSEQUENTLY CALLED IN FRENCH EMBASSY COUNSELOR MASSET AND INDICATED DISSATISFACTION WITH INCOMPLETE REPORTS THAT FRENCH AUTHORITIES HAVE THUS FAR PROVIDED. DEPT INSISTED ON HAVING FROM GOF FULL ACCOUNT OF FACTS, PARTICULARLY PRECISE CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING ACTUAL SEIZURE AND INCLUDING TEXT OF LETTER FROM ADMIRAL CLAVERIE REPORTEDLY DELIVERED TO FRI PRIOR TO SEIZURE. DEPARTMENT REQUESTED FRENCH TO FACILITATE OUR MAKING TELEPHONE CON-

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TACT WITH DAVID MOODIE AT HAO. USG ALSO RESERVED RIGHT TO SEND CONSULAR OFFICER TO HAO TO INTERVIEW MOODIE. DEPTOFFS STRESSED NEED FOR GOF COOPERATION AND FULL SHARING OF INFORMATION IN ORDER TO RESOLVE MATTER RAPIDLY. MASSET FURTHER WAS TOLD THAT USG DOES NOT DISMISS POSSIBILITY OF PURSUING MATTER AT HIGHER LEVEL.

5. MASSET SAID HE WOULD TRANSMIT DEPT VIEWS TO PARIS.

HE STRESSED GOF IS PREPARED TO COOPERATE. RE REQUEST FOR MOODIE MEETING WITH SON (REFTEL), MASSET INDICATED IF MOODIE (SENIOR) WISHES, FRENCH AUTHORITIES WILL BRING SON TO TAHITI AND THEY CAN MEET THERE. MASSET SAID THAT PHONE CALL BETWEEN MOODIES CAN BE ARRANGED THROUGH PARIS AND THAT QUAI WILL FACILITATE.

6. CONFIRMING MAGEE-HUMPHREYS TELCON, EMBASSY PARIS REQUESTED ASK QUAI TO ARRANGE TELEPHONE CALL 7 PM PARIS TIME THURSDAY, JULY 26 (8 AM AT HAO, 2 PM WASHINGTON). MR. MOODIE WILL STAND BY IN EUR/WE.

ROGERS

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